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Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3.

4th February, 1932.

Dear Sir, "ALABAMA"

S. I duly received your letter of the 18th ultimo, together with letters, dated 15th January from Mr. Buchanan, one of the Society's Surveyors at Philadelphia, and dated 16th January from Mr. Richardson, lately Surveyor at New York, and carefully note all that has been written by you and by them on the subject.

I am writing by today's mail to the Owner, embodying the substance of your letter, and I have to thank you for having dealt so fully in your communication with the several points which have arisen in the course of the correspondence in this case.

There is one point I think it well to mention however. In your letter, page 3, in dealing with the Master's declaration in Paragraph 8 "that, when unloaded, that is, at the arrival in New York, the undulations were not visible, you say that this declaration, in your opinion, is merely a difference of phraseology and does not conflict with Mr. Richardson's statement that he noticed some slight signs of waving of the deck, but considered them of no

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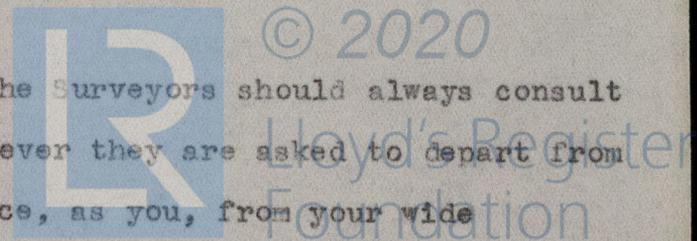
importance for reasons explained in his letter.

This is hardly correct, as there is a direct conflict of statement between the Master and Mr. Richardson, and in writing to the Owner I have not included the expression of your opinion on this point.

There is another point. Mr. Buchanan does not explain why no copy of his certificate was forwarded either to the New York Office or to this Office, and he should be requested to explain this.

In conclusion I have to request that you will kindly impress upon the Society's Surveyors the importance of strictly following the Committee's instructions as regards the procedure to be adopted by the Surveyors in dealing with cases of this kind. If the usual practice had been closely followed, the Surveyors and the Society would have been free from the criticism which has been made of them by the Owner and his insurance agents here. As you are aware, the Instructions to Surveyors are based upon the practical experience in conducting the Society's operations all over the world, and it is always found that when they are departed from to any material extent both the Society and the Surveyors are landed in serious difficulty.

In particular, the Surveyors should always consult you and seek your advice whenever they are asked to depart from the Society's approved practice, as you, from your wide



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experience, can fully appreciate the importance of all the Society's regulations.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

James French, Esq.,

NEW YORK.



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